



Prescott National Forest

Verde Ranger District

928 567-4121

<http://www.fs.fed.usda.gov/prescott>



SHORT CUT TRAIL #166

GENERAL INFORMATION: As its name implies, Short Cut Trail #166 provides a quick route between the north end of Pine Flat Trail #165 and the central section of Nelson Trail #159. These three trails, traveled together, form an attractive 8-mile loop through the rugged heart of Pine Mountain Wilderness. This remote area, protected under the Wilderness Act since 1972, boasts a diversity of animal inhabitants. It is not unusual to encounter white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, and javelina. Though seldom seen, black bear are also common in this area. TR 166 rises and falls as it passes through different vegetation communities, including open cactus and juniper-studded flats, shady ponderosa pine forest, and rocky drainages lined with deciduous oaks.

CAUTION: This trail is open to hikers and horseback riders. Please be considerate of others—
slow down and know when to yield the trail.

ACCESS AND TRAILHEAD LOCATION: TR 166 is an internal trail accessed by way of TR 159. Beginning at I-17, take Dugas Exit #268. Turn right onto Dugas Road (also FR 68) and travel 6.7 miles to the Dugas homestead. Continue on FR 68 for another 2.3 miles to a fork in the road. Bear right to remain on FR 68 and go 1.8 miles to the junction with FR 68G. Turn right to remain on FR 68 and continue 6.9 miles to Salt Flat Campground and the trailhead for TR 71 and TR 159. There is parking for 5-10 vehicles.

TRAVEL TIME: 1 hour from I-17

ROAD CONDITIONS: FR 68 is graded dirt. A high clearance vehicle is recommended. As of May 2011, FR 68 was recently maintained and in good condition. 4WD may be necessary when the road is wet.

HIKING TIME: 45 minutes, one-way **LENGTH:** 1.5 miles **DIFFICULTY:** Moderate **USE:** Light

NOTES: This trail lies within the Pine Mountain Wilderness. Motor vehicles and the use of any mechanized equipment, including bicycles, are prohibited. Wilderness is an important resource and national heritage—please, leave no trace. There is no reliable drinking water along this trail. As of May 2011, the trail has been recently maintained and is easy to find and follow.

RECOMMENDED SEASONS OF USE: Spring, summer, fall

MAPS, OTHER RESOURCES: Prescott National Forest Map, east half; U.S.G.S. topographic 7.5' quads for Tule Mesa, National Geographic Trails Illustrated Map Sycamore Canyon Verde Valley

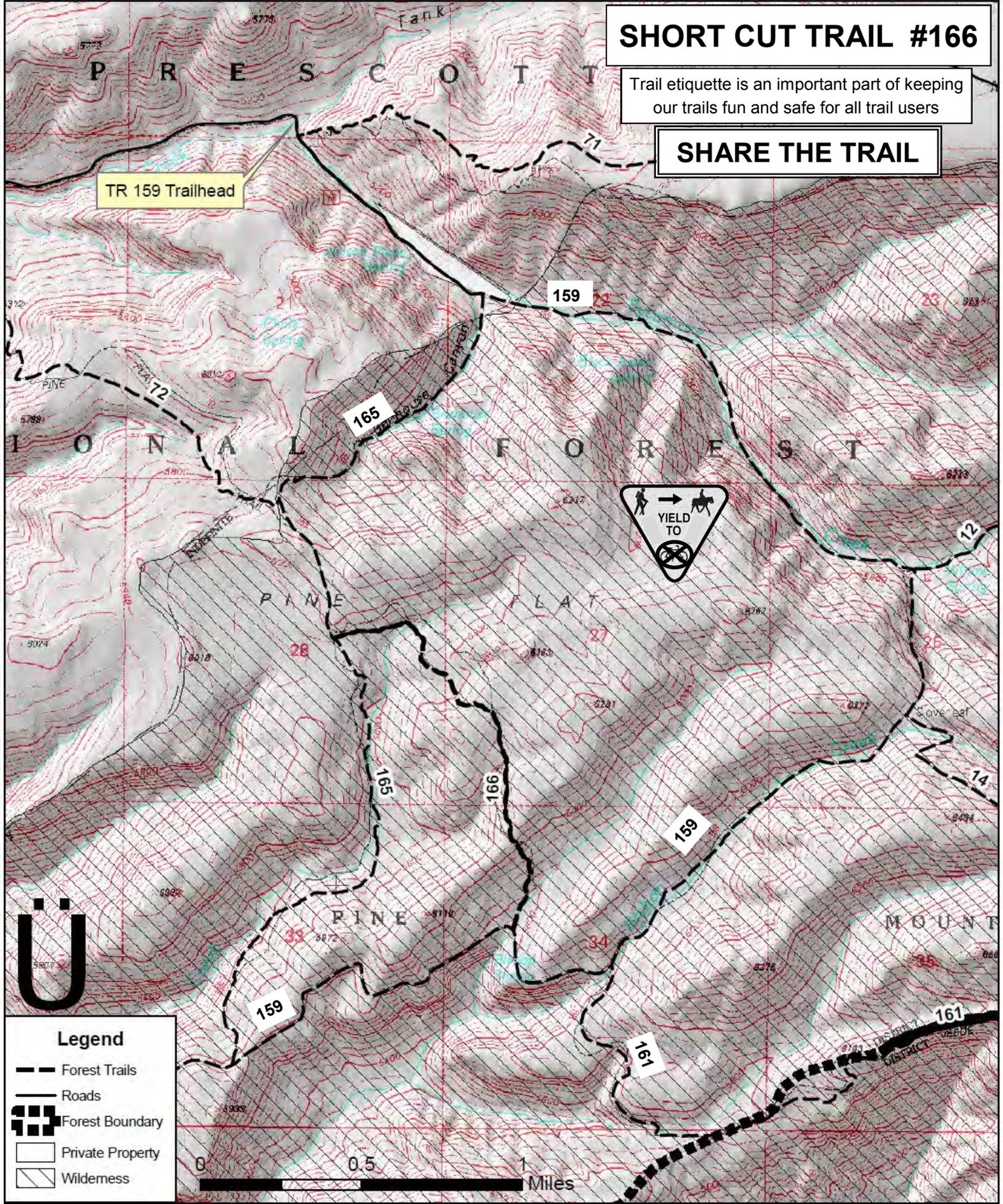


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Trail etiquette is an important part of keeping our trails fun and safe for all trail users

SHARE THE TRAIL

TR 159 Trailhead



Legend

- Forest Trails
- Roads
- ▣ Forest Boundary
- Private Property
- ▨ Wilderness

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